

# ***UpState RailConnect Committee***

***Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study***

## **October 1, 2014 Minutes (Subject to Approval)**

**Trinity County Public Utilities District Conference Room  
26 Ponderosa Street,  
Weaverville CA  
10:30 AM**

### **1. Introductions**

**Supervisor Fenley called the meeting to order at 11:09 AM. The following Committee Members were present:** City of Eureka Councilmember Marian Brady; Humboldt County representative David Tyson; Trinity Supervisor John Fenley; Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association representative Nick Angeloff.

**Committee Members Absent:** County of Trinity Supervisor Debra Chapman; Tehama County Supervisor Steve Chamblin; Tehama County CAO Bill Goodwin; County of Trinity CAO Wendy Tyler; Upstate California Economic Development Council Board President Brynda Stranix; Upstate California Economic Development Council representative Marc Nemanic; and Humboldt County Supervisor Rex Bohn.

**Staff:** David Hull

**Guests:** Larry Glass

### **2. Public Comment – None**

### **3. Review of Agenda**

By consensus, the proposed agenda for the October 1, 2014 meeting was approved.

### **4. Approval of minutes from May 7, 2014 meeting**

David Tyson moved for approval of the May 7, 2014 minutes; Seconded by Marian Brady. Motion carried without dissent.

## 5. Feasibility Study Funding Progress

David Hull reported on the recent US DOT TIGER grant submittal as follows:

TIGER VI: US DOT

Applicant: Trinity County Department of Transportation

Title: Upstate California RailConnect Feasibility Study

Applied: April 25, 2014

Grant request: \$345,000

Match (not required): \$35,000 LBA cash and in-kind

Support letters received specific to TIGER Grant Application:

Humboldt County Association of Governments

North State Super Region

CalTrans

Land Bridge Alliance

CSU Chico, Center for Economic Development

Award notifications were made in September 2014. The RailConnect Committee/Trinity DOT submittal was unsuccessful as there were only six TIGER VI grant awards in California and none of them were north of San Francisco/Sacramento.

Hull also reported the status of other funding opportunities as follows:

USDA Rural Communities – gap funding only

EDA – in research

CalTrans Partnership Grant – next cycle 2015

CalTrans CBTP Grant – Declined 2013/next cycle 2015

HCAOG - Declined

Headwaters – in research

TIGER – Submitted 4-25-14

The Committee members then agreed to the following assignments to track upcoming grant programs and opportunities:

### **GRANTS**

1. TIGER VII
2. CalTrans Community Based Transportation Planning
3. Headwaters
4. US Dept of Commerce, Economic Development Agency

### **TRACKING**

Angeloff  
Hull  
Tyson  
Brady

David Tyson suggested the grant trackers follow the progress of the assigned grant programs; make contacts with the granting agency; and bring application information to the RailConnect Committee for consideration.

Supervisor Fenley agreed to meet with officials from the HBMWD regarding any potential synergy between the feasibility study and their pipeline study.

Nick Angeloff suggested that the Committee be open to breaking the feasibility study scope of work into appropriate pieces if this approach makes a grant application more competitive.

Marian Brady suggested working with legislative advocates may help the funding process and agreed to follow up on the legislative advocate effort.

## **6. Summer 2014 RailConnect Committee Progress Report and Recommendations**

David Hull reminded the Committee of the adopted 2014 Task List as follows:

*With organizations formed; vast public support obtained; initial outreach efforts concluded; and a Scope of Work defined, in 2014, the UpState RailConnect Committee will focus its efforts on:*

- *Obtaining \$300,000 to complete the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study.*
- *If funded, the UpState RailConnect Committee will oversee the production of the final RFP, consultant advertising, consultant selection and consultant oversight.*
- *Continuing to make presentations and gather support for the study.*

Hull then described the list of informational presentations made since the May 7, 2014 RailConnect Committee meeting:

- May 29 – Presentation to Eureka Chamber of Commerce
- July 2 - Met with Rep. Huffman
- August 5 – Presentation to Eureka City Council on Final Report of the CDBG Pre-Feasibility Report
- August 7 – Presentation to Rep. LaMalfa and Assembly candidate Gallagher
- August 27 – Presentation to Go-Biz representative
- September 2 – Presentation to the Rio Dell City Council

Hull then reported on the Final Report of the *CDBG Railroad Alternative Route Pre-Feasibility Outreach and Planning Study* that was presented to the Eureka City Council on August 5, 2014. Highlights of the Final Report included:

### **Project Description**

The City of Eureka received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning and Technical Assistance (PTA) Grant of \$25,000 for the purpose of completing a Pre-Feasibility Outreach and Planning Study for an Alternative Rail Route. The Scope of Work for this Pre-Feasibility Study included:

- Organizing meetings and attendance as necessitated
- Making presentations to coordinate regional cooperation
- Identification of potential grant source(s)
- Research and gathering of information in preparation of grant applications(s) towards their future submittal
- Identification of match fund sources
- Travel needs and expenses (geographic scope of the project is over 130 miles)
- This PTA Grant (12-CDBG-8385) was effective December 20, 2012. This Final Report details the results of this grant activity from December 20, 2012 through January 31, 2014. Final Report presented August 5, 2014

### **A Summary of the Pre-Feasibility Study Summary noted:**

- Multi-agency *UpState RailConnect Committee* formed for regional project oversight
- Received more than 50 letters of support from a vast portion of Northern California
- Made more than 30 presentations to civic groups, agency representatives and elected officials throughout Northern California.
- Identified 7 potential funding sources for completion of the feasibility study. Although not funded by the pre-feasibility grant, 2 grants were applied for:
  - Community Based Transportation Planning grant (CalTrans) 2013
  - TIGER VI (US DOT) 2014
- Submitted comments to the State Rail plan in 2013
- Produced and distributed two newsletters
- Adopted a Scope of Work and a draft RFP for the feasibility study

Hull also reported on a breakdown of feasibility study support by region as follows:

### **Coast**

- City of Eureka
- City of Fortuna
- City of Rio Dell
- County of Humboldt
- Wiyot Tribe

- Humboldt County Association of Governments
- Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
- Six Rivers National Forest
- Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
- Eureka Police Officers Association
- Humboldt Deputy Sheriff's Organization
- Humboldt State University
- Humboldt County Office of Education
- International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 14
- Eureka Chamber of Commerce
- Schneider Dock
- The California Redwood Company
- Humboldt Redwood Company
- Northwestern Pacific Railroad
- Humboldt Association of Realtors
- Humboldt Cattlemen's Association
- East-West Rail Advocates
- Land Bridge Alliance
- Rail and Port Infrastructure Task Force
- Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group

## **Inland**

- County of Tehama
- County of Trinity
- Shasta-Trinity National Forest
- CSU Chico, Center for Economic Development
- Orland Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Oroville Chamber of Commerce
- Corning, California Chamber of Commerce
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Tehama County Farm Bureau

## **Northern California**

- CalTrans
- Northern California Tribal Chairman's Association
- Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor – Congress of Industrial Organizations
- State Building and Construction Trades Council of California
- Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Building and Construction Trades Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties
- Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local No 3, California
- Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- California Marine and Intermodal Transportation Advisory Council

- North State Super Region
- Military Officers Association of America
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Upstate California Economic Development Council
- California Association for Local Economic Development

## **7. Reports**

Nick Angeloff reported that he had recently met with five capital funding groups in New York and that there was a great deal of interest in port and rail opportunities in our area.

**8. Task Assignments/Items for the Next Agenda:** The Committee agreed the following items should be discussed at the next meeting:

- a. Make a shorter version of the newsletter and include an offer to make presentations. Intended audience for the newsletter includes present supporters of the feasibility study and the general public (including Chambers of Commerce, Rotaries and others).

**9. Next Meeting:** David Tyson suggested the Committee met quarterly in 2015, but be available to meet more often if necessary. It was decided that the next meeting would be held telephonically at 10AM, December 11, 2014.

**10. Meeting adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM

Approved:  
John Fenley, Chair